The Mirror

OF

LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

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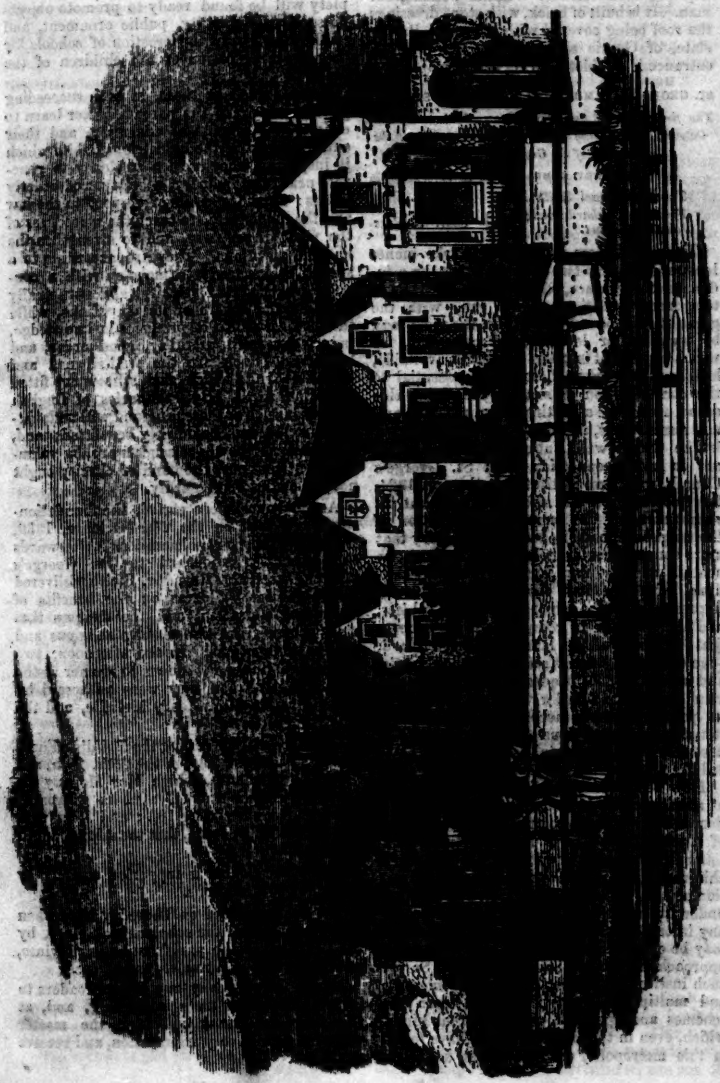

ST. GEORGE'S, CAMBERWELL, NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

ST. GEORGE'S, CAMBERWELL, NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

THIS very elegant and truly commodious Gothic structure has lately been erected by public subscription, at the very moderate expense of 2,000*l.*, under the judicious direction of that aspiring architect, Mr. William Gooding Colman. It is built of brick, with stone dressings, the roof being covered with the green Bangor slate, of Gothic shape. Over the principal entrance is a tablet, bearing this inscription:—

ST. GEORGE'S, CAMBERWELL, NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

The first stone of these Schools was laid on the 28th October, 1839, (being the seventh anniversary of the reopening of St. George's Church,)

BY HENRY KEMBLE, ESQ., M. P.

The Rev. Samuel Smith, M. A. — *Minister.*
Ferdinand Richard Cameron, John Owen Hart — *Churchwardens.*

The school-room is ninety feet, six inches long, and twenty-two feet high; but, by a judicious contrivance, they are divided by a temporary partition, which can, with the greatest ease, be removed, when the room may be wanting for lectures, concerts, &c., for which purpose it is made peculiarly available, having a boarded roof, so highly essential to the concentration of sound. Adjoining this school-room, are a waiting-room, master's and mistress's rooms, and other requisite offices.

The Camberwell National Schools, which are in close connection with St. George's Church, were first instituted in the year 1824, for two hundred and fifty children; but, in consequence of the increasing population of the neighbourhood, it became necessary that more commodious schools should be built, to contain at least four hundred and fifty children, with sufficient offices: the Directors, impressed with the importance of the subject, and also in order to comply with the benevolent intentions of the late Mr. Joseph Ward, (one of the original Directors of the Schools, and who, in 1835, bequeathed the handsome sum of 500*l.*, in order to secure, as much as possible, ample accommodation for instruction, upon religious principles, strictly in accordance with the established church,) erected the above school.

How needful such institutions as these are at such a period, is made manifest by the evidence given before a committee of the House of Commons, during a late session of Parliament, that in one district alone, out of 4,577 children, 3,299 were not receiving any education at all. In another, out of 812 children under twelve years of age, only 65 were under any instruction whatever, and, though these may be extreme cases, yet different degrees of approach to them are but too general. Surely such institutions ought, therefore, to increase and multiply. If we look back upon the schemes and speculations of different kinds, which, even in the last few years, have found in this metropolis, encouragement and support—if we contemplate the resources which have never been found to fail where any project appeared to open the way for worldly gains—if we see the unsparing supplies which are ever ready to uphold the splendours of pompous celebrations—can it be doubted that a spirit of enlarged philanthropy and Christian piety will be found ready to promote objects of such public utility, public ornament, and public charity, as the erection of schools for the proper education of the children of the land.

Schools such as these, in each succeeding generation, make the parents better learn to estimate the benefits of education, and their children to gain the industrious habits which it inspires. They have a tendency to generate prudence, industry, sobriety, and orderly habits: to create habits of respect to the law and the magistrate, to teach the sacredness of the right of property, and to strengthen the natural affections. They are according to a system, which tends to move on with a constantly accelerated velocity, and perpetually to widen the sphere of its operations, while the increase which it produces is knowledge, industry, wealth, morality, good order, and happiness. Such are the well-ripened and estimable fruits which such schools are fitted to bring forth. By seminaries of English education such as these, England will undoubtedly in the end, be largely benefitted; and, supported as the above schools are, by voluntary contributions, the hand of charity ought not to be stint or niggardly.

As we have before stated, the foundation-stone was laid on the 28th October, 1839, with the customary solemnities. Afterwards the assembly adjourned to St. George's Church, when the Rev. Mr. Smith delivered an appropriate address on the benefits of Scriptural education, and the dangers that must accrue from dissociating religious and secular instructions. In the afternoon, two hundred children sat down to dinner at the River Hotel, when they were addressed by the vicar, the Rev. Henry Melville, and the Rev. Mr. Smith.

With the view of aiding the Building Fund, a Fancy Sale was held on the 25th, 26th, and 28th of last month, which Her Majesty the Queen Dowager was pleased to patronize, graciously transmitting 10*l.*; and it is with much pleasure we learn, that the sale produced about 450*l.*

The above School is supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions.

The School opened on Thursday last, when an examination of the scholars took place, by the ministers of the parish and other divines, in the presence of a numerous audience.

It will amply repay any of our readers to inspect the above truly interesting, and, at this time, important building: the master will gladly give every information, and receive donations.

SWEET MEMORIES OF WINDERMERE.

Far away, far away, o'er the mountains and dell,
Where the white snows of winter spread icy and cold,
Where the wild fox below, and the vulture above,
Look down from their mountain-heights dizzy and old;
Where the flowers of the summer are wither'd and gone,
And the green mountain-moss clings alone to the ground,
Till ye come to a valley as lovely and lone
As the bright shining stars that are blinking around,
And the sweet voice of nature comes full on the ear,
From the beautiful shores of the calm Windermere.

Oh, Mary, dear Mary, the thought of that meeting
Comes over me now like a dream of the past;
And ye'll deem it not strange that these sorrowful tears
Trickle down o'er my bosom so scalding and fast,
When you think of the laddie that loves you so deeply,
How ye clung round his neck, and in whisp'rings half-spoken,
Said, keep, in remembrance of Mary, this ring,
Her heart you should have—but her heart it is broken,
And I wip'd from thine eyelid the hot-gushing tear,
On the beautiful shores of the calm Windermere.

And we walk'd by the sides of those lullaby waters,
The broad lake before us, so rosy and still,
Not a murmur awaken'd the silence so holy,
Save the song of the nightingale over the hill;
And ye look'd, dear, so fondly, and told me so sweetly,
That the softness around thee sank deep in thine heart;
That the dark hour was coming to sever asunder
The two loving bosoms that death should not part;
And we parted so often—still, still clinging near,
To the beautiful shores of the calm Windermere.

Farewell to the rocks, and the mountains so cloudy,
Farewell to thy musical nature and shore;
Farewell to the smile, and the blue eyes adoring,
Mine own shall behold you in rapture no more;
The cold hand of death presses heavily on me,
The warm blood of life from my body is gone;
The light of these dim eyes is fast, fastly fading,
Oh, when will the slumbers of darkness come on?
Yet the last lingering name shall be thine, Mary, dear,
And the beautiful shores of the calm Windermere!

T. H. Glamorgan.

THE FORGIVEN MARY MAGDALEN.

She sate beneath an aged tree,
Lost in a pleasing reverie;
Her eyes no longer wept the tears,
That had be-dimmed their light for years;
Her heart at peace with all below,
Had lost its weary weight of woe.

What dreams of glory glad her now!
She sees a wreath to crown her brow;—
That, lately sunk in sorrow vain
Had never hoped to rise again;
She hears the voices soft and sweet,
Of angels thronging round to greet
Her soul, that doth such favour share,
Pardoned by Him who reigneth there.

She looked upon the glowing sky
Redected in her trusting eye,
She felt her waiting home was there:
Then turned her to the earth so fair
That would not long enchain her there,
Whose heart was in another sphere;
She thought all nature seemed to join
In breathing forth the words divine,—
That bade her many sorrows cease,
"Thy faith hath saved thee—go in peace!"

Slow set the sun—and ne'er before
To her charmed eye such glory bore;
It seemed to typify to her,
The closing of her own career;
A cloudy Morning it had been,
Darkened by tempest, wind, and rain;
But Noon, full many a glorious ray
Had brought to gild the closing day.

Maria R.

SHADES OF THE DEAD.—No. I.

[In an age when the majority of writing is demoralising, and the imaginations of many are thereby apt to fall into error or decay, it is especially useful to set up before the eyes of men, the portraits of the great minds which now exist for us only in their thoughts or actions: and to display them for the reverential love of present times, in their living personalities, and surrounded, as golden statues in a temple, by unstained and sacred air.]

COLUMBUS.

Columbus in the Days of his Poverty.

The wondrous magic-lanthorn of history shows him to us as a poor way-farer, accompanied by his son, and appearing on foot at the gate of a monastery to implore bread for his boy. The tall and majestic pauper, with his ruddy cheek tinged by years and hardship, and bright hair so early turned to snow, must have presented a singular portrait of freshness and courage, battered, but not overthrown by misfortune. There was a spirit in his clear grey eye, which, while he discoursed to the Prior of Santa Maria de Rabida, on his designs and convictions, would indicate that he had in himself that union of the heroic and saintly character required for so perilous an enterprize. And probably, he who heard Columbus speak with the honest and earnest simplicity through all his life so peculiarly belonging to him, must have perceived a power in his words that softened the contrast, so strange to us, between the condition of the solitary beggar, and the vastness of the thought which he announced.

The Visions and Thoughts of his early Days.

We trace him with more than the interest which follows a hero of romance through the doubtful and adventurous years of his earlier life. There is a meditative curiosity which yearns to discover in what obscure and silent conjuncture of his vigorous manhood, the idea of the world's completion by his means, first dawned over his imagination. With how many strange thoughts and misgivings, and momentary temptations of a magical fancy, and recurring terrors at the very rashness of his own conception must this great man have contended, whether in his narrow chamber, or on the unsteady deck of some paltry bark, guided between Spain and Italy, with a crew of half-a-score men, by him who was first to break the gates of the Atlantic. Image him in his little cabin, studying by the flickering light of a solitary lamp, and to the sound of the winds and waters, the marvellous descriptions of Marco Polo, or the more pregnant pages of Scripture, in which, with tremulous, yet confident expectation, he taught himself to read the memorable prophecies of his own enterprises, and evidences of his special selection. Image the poor adventurer, the son of

the Genoese wool-comber, and a sailor since his early boyhood, wrestling for the sense of some dark saying, which he wanted learning to interpret, and finding its significance come gradually glimmering, as it were, out of the page, at the call of his earnest reliance: conceive him weighing, hesitating, trembling, turning to the stars an eye of hope, repeating a hasty supplication to the saints, reviewing in his thoughts the large and mixed array of testimonies on which he had employed years in building up his trust, resting at last with secure triumph in the certainty which God had given him, till again he turned away with terror to consider the inadequacy of his means for the fulfilment of his mission: thus, by the effort of an honest imagination let us paint Columbus, and we shall help ourselves to think what and how great he was.

State of the World before his Discovery.

The ancient world, so far as any single nation knew it, was a narrow island of solid soil, rooted to the centre, and overarched by its own definite firmament, while all beyond was vision, mystery, and the substance of a dream. Men looked from their fields and watchtowers into distant lands, as we gaze from some hill-side upon the vague brightness and mingling colours of the evening clouds and the calm ocean. The earth of which they had knowledge, was encompassed by imagination and tradition, with a thousand mythological kingdoms, with the cities of Meru, the golden bowers of Olympus, the Gardens of the Hesperides glimmering through the desert, the icy habitations of Caucasus, and the banquet-halls of Ethiopia. The Greek, who saw the stars arising out of the sea, might fancy that they had won their brightness from the glorious islands of Antilla, or Atlantis, in which they reposed by day, and were hidden in the distance from the eyes of men. Along the doubtful margin of the actual world, gigantic monsters and lovely shadows walked half visible. Mighty lands in the conception of the Christian, around the more certain sphere in which he dwelled, were peopled with the holy descendants of Seth, with the progeny of demons, with angels themselves, and innumerable wondrous ministers of human temptation, or servants of saintly triumph. A broad belt filled with beings as strange as the shapes of the zodiac, encircled in the mind of every one the little region to which he was himself accustomed, commanded his awe, and repelled his inquiry.

Viewed as a Dissolver of Old Superstitions.

Of the men who have dissipated these fancies, have fixed the clouds into solidity, and chased the shadows from the ends of the earth, the chief is Columbus. He accomplished more than any one else, towards making us masters of the world on which we tread; and giving us, instead of yawning abysses, and realms of vapour, wide waters for our ships, and lands for the city and the plough. He has rendered to the world an imperishable service. He stands in history as the completer of the globe: the conqueror who has added to the commonwealth of mankind, unheard of provinces and barbarous tribes. The barrier within which we moved with reluctant terror, like a lion in a circle of protruded spears, impetuous but fearful, was broken down by that Genoese sailor, and all around us was laid open to our onset. The mound on which so many phantoms poised themselves and displayed their wings, was by him uprooted from their foundation, and made to mingle with the sky. Thenceforward there was no limit to the action of any thought: no walls confined the arena of human enterprise, but those which the nature of things has appointed.

The Religiousness of Columbus' Mind.

In his own letters, addresses, and narratives, that which strikes us as different from the writings of any other bold and instructed seaman, is the constant appeal to religious authority. He was a diligent studier of the Bible, and from it he draws a hundred misapplied predictions. In his conviction, the attempt to which he devoted himself was designed from of old by Providence, and he, as its selected minister, was watched over by saints and angels, and the mother of the Lord pointed his path along the waters. The cross was the ensign of his triumph; and his task was almost accomplished, when he had first displayed the emblem of his faith on the shores of the New World.

The Child-like Simplicity of Columbus.

Columbus, the great overthrower of the fantastic and mysterious idolatries which were founded on the ignorance of mankind, the man who, more than all others, routed the vague phantoms, that to the mind of every one, filled the unknown earth, wanted not a child-like simplicity in the truths of religion. He separated for ever the two worlds of the infinite and the finite, and cleared our knowledge of each by drawing a broad line between them, while his genius enlarged and completed the domain of man's physical exertion. And though, as we have seen above, the mind of Columbus was in many respects dark and weak, yet in this it was strong, that he held fast to a religious hope and reliance, which taught him to refer immediately to God, whatever of clear knowledge and new illumination he possessed. He felt himself marked out and appointed, with the other special servants of heaven, to perform a high spiritual work. The vividness of his intuition, the strength of his hope, he did not seek to account for, from the accidents of his character, or the scattered learning of his life. He thought that all was given to him for a predicted purpose, and that he was ranged among the patriarchs and prophets chosen from of old to do the

work of Providence. Yet was his piety vastly humble: he was, indeed, in all things childlike: childlike in his humility, childlike in his confidence; childlike in the keenness and freshness of all his sensations; yet was it he who discovered, and by this very unfearing simplicity of heart, that New World which has changed the whole condition and subsequent history of the old.

Columbus regarded imaginarily.

The name of the discoverer of America would give us, if we wanted accurate knowledge, the conception of a vast and iron mind, trampling over obstacles, compelling kings and seas to yield to him, and realizing the cloud-like dreams of antiquity, by an act of will as imperative and irresistible as that by which the ocean-god framed and lifted over the water the island of Apollo. He connects himself with the stern benefactors, the heroic shadows of antiquity, Jason, and the warlike Bacchus, and wandering Hercules. The fancy naturally conceives of him as a mighty spectral shape leaning, like some old sea-phantom, on a gigantic rudder, and fixed for ever in dim and unmoving sublimity, on some icy crag of Darien, with two worlds of water spread below him. A form remote, immense, and unapproachable, alone seems suitable to his fame. We cannot imagine him as a man beat back by daily opposition, impeded by the follies of the vulgar, checked and stung by the reptiles of society; and the act which revealed a second world, likens itself in our thought, to the simplicity and singleness of a creation.

But, alas! this bold, imposing, and right-onward course, this unity and distinctness of action, can scarcely exist among men, but in some false and melo-dramatic appearance. To struggle and agonize, to win a little way by much exertion; to be attended in our completest triumphs by the shame of some particular favour, or to be cut off in the midst of hopes brighter than any we have realized, is the fate of humanity. In Columbus, we do not discover one great inspiration displaying itself in action as soon as attained, and leaving to him whom it favoured, nothing for the future, but to die in his renown. He does not delineate himself with a few vague shadowy lines, in which none of the half-tints and finer lineaments of man can be discerned. But we see him throughout, made up of much greatness and some weakness, encompassed with obstructions so petty, that one would wish him to blow them away like cobwebs, yet so strong that, giant as he was, he frequently could not escape from them: often baffled, and sometimes irritated, by the despicable; and such, that his effigy ought to be moulded by the historian in gold, not virgin, but tormented into purity by the furnace.

FORMATION OF A NEW COMPANY.

"This is the patent age of new invention."—Byron.

Last week, at the Castle in the Air and Bubble Tavern, Vapour Street, a number of influential gentlemen assembled for the purpose of forming themselves into a *new* company, with the view of imparting permanent happiness to the whole human race. The gentleman, at whose house several philanthropic individuals met on a former occasion,* was called to the chair.

Chairman.—You, doubtless, recollect, gentlemen, that we, or the greater part of us, assembled some months ago, for the praiseworthy purpose of endeavouring to establish, with the aid of a sufficient fund, a system for the diffusion of universal happiness. That meeting, you may remember, owing to the coarse vulgarity of Mr. Common Sense, and the practical wit of Dr. Jokewell, broke up very abruptly, and in great confusion. I have to inform you, that although our laudable efforts were then frustrated, the fund at our disposal remains untouched. I, therefore, propose, that we immediately form ourselves into a Company, and that the said fund be employed, as we, in our wisdom, shall hereafter determine. Gentlemen, you will, no doubt, be highly satisfied, and much pleased, by my assurance, that Mr. Common Sense and his facetious friend, are to be excluded from our society for ever. I am now surrounded, I trust, by none but men of lofty sentiments and expanded principles. If you are such as I believe you, surely a noble plan may speedily be formed for the attainment of universal joy and felicity. (*Loud cheers.*) I am anxious to hear what you have to advance upon this important subject.

Mr. Teachall.—During the last fifty years, much has been effected for improving the condition of man; but he does not yet enjoy that supreme happiness which, in my humble opinion, this beautiful world is capable of affording him. We must push forward the advantages we have already gained, and not relax in our exertions until we have advanced men and things to the very highest degree of perfection. The scene of earthly bliss may be arrived at by means of education and the diffusion of knowledge. I do not mean a limited education,—every human being must be duly instructed in the classics; and I propose that colleges be immediately founded in all towns and villages, where the dead languages, and all other kind of learning, may be taught by efficient masters. The legislature must pass an act, requiring every man and woman, at the age of twenty years, to be proficient in Greek and Latin, divinity, law, physic, &c. Gentlemen, imagine to yourselves the delight you will experience, at hearing a dirty scavenger in the street, exhort, with all the dignity and eloquence of an archbishop, a

* See *Mirror*, No. 966, Vol. 34, page 149.

group of attentive listeners to be virtuous and good; or at hearing a poor fishwoman learnedly descant to a customer, on the natural history of fish in general! *(Tremendous cheers.)*

Sir Hurry Onward.—In order that education and science may be universally disseminated, and that commerce may thrive, the present mode of intercourse between countries and towns must be considerably improved. It is essentially necessary for us to have cheaper and more expeditious travelling, and we should devise the best means of accomplishing this object. Steam is not yet capable of conferring prodigious benefits upon us; and, to convince you that its present power may be immensely augmented, I beg to remind you, that the ordinary velocity of the wind is thirty-five miles an hour, and the usual rate of speed on the Great Western Railway is thirty-nine miles an hour; so that, with all our boasted science, we can only travel four miles an hour faster than the wind! This tardiness is a stigma on the enterprising spirit of man. Much remains to be done—steam must be improved, and railways of greater magnitude must be constructed. We can now be conveyed to America in ten or twelve days—but why not be able to accomplish the distance in four or five days? A tunnel has been made under the Thames—that undertaking ought to stimulate us to attempt a similar excavation beneath the bed of the Atlantic. A railway, with efficient locomotive power, might be introduced into the tunnel, and thus we might, conveniently and safely, travel from Liverpool to New York, in less than half the time that is now required for that purpose. *(Immense cheering.)* In order that the tunnel, when finished, may be properly lighted, it will be expedient to form a new Gas Company, under the designation of "Atlantic Ocean Tunnel Gas Company."

Mr. Soaraway.—Considering what *has* been achieved by the genius and perseverance of man, I by no means think the formation of the projected tunnel impracticable; but I must protest against it, because I do not think that mankind will be much benefited by it. Besides, it will exhaust our fund, and timid people might object to travel so far under the bottom of the ocean. Instead, therefore, of agreeing to Sir Hurry Onward's scheme, I humbly beg to propose that a more elevated and economical mode of transition be adopted. Balloons were invented in the year 1794, but their utility has not yet been discovered, in consequence of our inability to guide them to specified places. I advise that a liberal premium be offered to any individual who will invent a method of steering balloons at pleasure, with the view that they may be brought into universal use, and supersede all the present modes of conveyance on land and sea. The largest kind will constitute the Royal Navy, in place of the unwieldy wooden ships now in vogue; and trading balloons to all parts of the world, will ensure great advantages to merchants, and happiness to mankind in general. In large towns, balloon-cabs and hackney-balloons may be introduced for the accommodation of the inhabitants. Instead of coaches for carrying the mail, we will have mail balloons established between all the principal towns; and the introduction of parachutes, for the convenience of passengers wishing to alight at any of the intermediate towns and villages, will be very desirable. The balloon system of travelling, gentlemen, will prove remarkably pleasant, and will be highly conducive to health, the possession of which, ought to make every one happy. Man will find himself elevated, his views will be expanded, and he will no longer be a groveling creature upon the face of the earth. *(Great cheering.)*

Mr. Warypace.—From the commencement of the reign of George the Third to the present day, novel inventions have been heaped upon man; but, instead of becoming happy in proportion to the number of inventions already known, he is discontented and restless. Science has enabled him to soar above the tops of the highest mountains, and he can travel along the surface of the earth with the speed of the wind. Curious and stupendous machinery performs, with incredible rapidity, the greatest part of his work. Bodily exertion has, comparatively, become unnecessary; the strength of man, in these days of scientific improvement, is but little required—he is provided with abundance of steam and gas, but he wants bread. It will surely be admitted, that all inventions introduced for the purpose of dispensing with manual labour, are, however beautiful in themselves, destructive to human happiness, I therefore propose, that we petition parliament to interdict the working of all steam engines in future, and to pass no more bills for the construction of railroads. Let us, henceforth, resolve to purchase no articles of manufacture but those actually made with hands, and to read no more books printed by steam-presses. I prefer post-horses to locomotive engines, and am quite satisfied to travel at the good old rate of ten miles an hour. *(Immense cheering.)*

After a few observations made by *Sir Sensual Vain*, *Mr. Lawless*, and *Mr. Morbidmind*, it was resolved, by a large majority of the meeting, that nature should be made subservient to art, and that, in order to ensure the happiness of mankind, the world should be turned *inside out*.

G. W. N.

HINDOO MYTHOLOGY.

THE CREATION.

In one of the sacred volumes of the Hindoos, entitled the Institutes of Menu, it is stated, that the self-existing power, having willed to produce various beings—at first, with a thought, created the waters, in which he placed a productive seed, that in course of

time, became an egg. In this egg, the divine being deposited himself, where he lay in a state of inactivity, during a whole year of the Creator; a period, which, according to the Hindoos, consists of 1,555,200,000,000 solar years. Sir W. Jones informs us, that a Calpa or grand period, containing the reigns of fourteen Menus, constitutes one day of Brahma. This period, according to the books of the Hindoos, comprises 4,320,000,000 years, which multiplied by 360, the number of days in a divine year, gives the above amount. At the end of this period, having caused, by his thought, the egg to divide in two, the divine being was, himself, born in the form of Brahma, the great forefather of all spirits; thus, from THAT WHICH IS, the first cause, was produced the divine male, famed in all worlds under the appellation of Brahma. This is described in the Hindoo books, as the great transformation of the Divine Being, from neuter to masculine, for the purpose of creating the worlds; and, that under this masculine form of Brahma, the Divine Being effected the rest of the creation; in the accomplishment of which, the Hindoos believe he was engaged 17,064,000 years. From the two divisions of the egg, he framed the heaven above, and the earth beneath; in the midst, he placed the subtle ether, the eight regions, and the permanent receptacle of waters. He created an assemblage of inferior deities, with divine attributes and pure souls, and a number of genii exquisitely delicate; and, he prescribed the sacrifice ordained from the beginning. He gave being to time, and the divisions of time; to the stars also, and to the planets; to rivers, oceans, and mountains; to level plains and uneven valleys. For the sake of distinguishing actions, he made a total difference between right and wrong; and enured all sentient creatures to pleasure and pain. That the human race might be multiplied, he caused the Brahmen to proceed from his mouth, the Cshatriya from his arm, the Vaisya from his thigh, and the Sudra from his foot. Before he created other races of men, and living creatures, the Mighty Power divided his own substance, and became half male, half female. By this female, the male half produced Viraj, a demi-god and saint; Viraj, by virtue of austere devotion, produced Menu, also a demi-god and saint. Menu, being desirous of giving birth to a race of men, produced ten lords of created beings; namely, Marichi, Atri, Angiras, Pulastya, Pulaha, Cratu, Prechetas, Vasishtha, Bhrigu, and Narada. By the command of Menu, these ten lords produced seven other Menus and deities, and the mansions of deities, and great sages, and also benevolent genii, and fierce giants, blood-thirsty savages, heavenly quiristers, nymphs, and demons, huge serpents and snakes of smaller size, birds of mighty wing, and separate companions of Pitris or progenitors of mankind; lightnings and thunderbolts, clouds and coloured bows of Indra, falling meteors, earth-rending vapours, comets, and luminaries of various degrees; horse-faced sylvans, apes, fish, and a variety of birds; tame cattle, deer, men, and ravenous beasts with two rows of teeth; small and large reptiles, moth, lice, fleas, and common flies; with every biting gnat, and immovable substances of distinct sorts.

W. G. C.

FEMALE PERFECTION

OF THE GREEK AND CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS.

THERE is no conception which has so entirely departed from us, and which it is so difficult to revive, as that of the standard of female perfection, as it existed among the ancients. We do not mean that it is impossible for us, with our Christian eyes, to contemplate, and admire, and reverence, and all but love, the Antigones and Electras of the Greek drama. As long as we retain any true feeling of the beautiful, till we become converted into mere worshippers of the idols around us,—a state immediately preceding that in which we lose all perception even of what is lovely in them,—so long shall we continue to visit those shrines, and to find, each time we bow down before them, fresh supplies of strength and purity. But the most exquisite of these exquisite beings can never become an abiding presence with us. They live in the distant world; and our communion with them, though sacred, can never be friendly. Surrounded as we are, by the sorrowful and spiritual beauty of so many Madonnas and Magdalens, our minds must be reluctant to dwell constantly in a region from which they are excluded.

No,—it is only in our intercourse with such creatures as

> "The lonely lady married to the moor,
> And gentle Una with her milk-white lamb,"

that affection and tenderness are blended with adoration and wonder. The mild spirit of Christianization rules the minds of our writers now. Even Goethe, in his character of Iphigenia, has found this feeling in many passages predominant over the classical elements and frigidity he desired to attain; and Iphigenia, ceasing to be a Greek, becomes a modern, Shakspearean, Christian woman.

The same is observable in Wordsworth's Laodamia. In that exquisite poem, wherein he wished to be strictly classical, he could not help feeling that the additional excitements of moving love and intense passions were needed, in order to give him the same interest in a Greek woman, with which we are naturally inspired by the homely and quiet lives of his Margarets and Emilies. And if great men have found difficulties in the experiment, the blunders of little men who have repeated it after them have often been melancholy and disgusting. One half of them—who are called classical, and upon the strength of that reputation are admired

by young ladies, and made professors of poetry at Oxford—merely take from the fair creatures of our own land, all their love, and tenderness, and passion, and then say, Behold a Greek! If there is any person who believes them, we should not despair of convincing him, that a picture of Titian, *minus* the colouring, and warmth, and beauty, is the same thing as a statue of Praxiteles.

Another and opposite method is that of which there are many apostles in this country. These hold, that Christianity has introduced into the world a great many inconvenient restraints upon the freedom of woman's feelings. "Let us, therefore," they argue, "take these restraints away from the women of the present day, and what will remain?" A Greek, to be sure—a beautiful, languishing, loving, sensual Greek, who gratifies the instincts of her warm heart, and was never plagued with notions of sin, or warnings of futurity! And there are men who in good faith think this a Greek ideal—one in whom Sophocles would have delighted: who really are not aware that the Greek standard was vastly *more* stately and severe than the Christian, and that the difference consists in the one being a mere ideal, inhabiting a sphere in which mortals could never dwell, and therefore exerting no influence over their daily pursuits and habits: and the other being a divine humanity—like ourselves, as well as like God—connected with us by a ladder set on earth and reaching heaven, upon which the angels are ascending and descending continually.

Biography.

JOHN HOLLAMBY

Was born at Frant, in the county of Sussex, and brought up to the trade of his father—that of a miller. At an early age, he was placed under the tuition of a woman,

> "Whom we schoolmistress name,
> Boasting unruly brats with birch to tame,"

at a place called Bell's Oak Green, in the same parish; and this, with the exception of a few months at Mount Sion Chapel School, Tunbridge Wells, constituted the whole of his scholastic education.

In the year 1828, he then having a family of eight children, was persuaded to publish some of his poetical pieces, which he did, under the title of "The Unlettered Muse."

The reception which these met with, induced him to put forth a second edition, with additions, the following year. This little work procured him many new friends. Complimentary letters were sent him on the occasion; amongst others, one from Mr. Richard Lower, of Chiddingly—himself no mean poet.

His effusions, both in prose and verse, have, at different times, appeared in the *Sussex Advertiser*, the *Brighton Guardian*, the *Gazette*, the *Patriot*, and the *Hastings Iris*; and, although most of them have been anonymous, yet some have been thought worthy of being transferred to the columns of the Metropolitan Press. As he has always applied himself steadily to his occupation, he has never experienced those vicissitudes which too frequently attend the humble followers of "The Muses."

He has retained his situation at Hailsham, for the last thirty years, contented and happy; in one of his late poetical pieces, he has expressed himself in the following words,

> "My time rolls on about an even course,
> But seldom better, and but seldom worse;—
> Fortune and I but rarely disagree,
> I ask but little, and she gives it me."

The following is a very fair specimen of our author's powers, and which cannot fail to attract, from the originality of the idea—its sweetness lies in its simplicity.

FLORA'S FASHIONS.

BY JOHN HOLLAMBY.

When first Madame Flora in public appears,
How modest and neat is her dress;
On her bosom the snowdrop or crocus she wears,
Which simplicity seems to express.

But like other ladies of changeable taste,
She soon seems ambitious to shine—
The crocus and snowdrop are quickly displaced,
For flowers more gaudy and fine.

And then she puts on her rich "mantle of green."
Bespangled with purple and gold;
How gay is her air—how enchanting her mien—
How gorgeous and fair to behold.

Sweetbriar and moss-rose her tresses enweave,
When dressed for the sweet month of May;
So lovely she seems—Oh! it makes the heart grieve,
That beauty like hers must decay.

For all her gay splendour, by winter's stern pow'r,
E're long in the dust will be laid,
To moulder and perish—Ah! beauty's a flower,
That blooms but to wither and fade.

March 28, 1840.

PHENOMENON OF NATURE.

FROG FOUND IN COAL.

As two colliers were in one of the rooms of the Old Muirfield pit, at Gargieston, they found a living frog imbedded in the solid seam of coal, at least twelve fathoms beneath the surface of the earth. The niche in which it had lived was perfectly smooth inside, of the exact shape of the frog, and without a crack or crevice to give admittance to air. The hind legs of the animal were at least a third longer than usual, the fore legs shorter, the toes longer and harder, and its general colour was of a bronze shade. It leaped briskly about the moment that it was excavated from its narrow cell. How many centuries it has been shut out from light and air, and entombed in its dreary dormitory, it is impossible to say—certain it is, that although diminutive in form, and with great brilliancy of eye, it has a most antediluvian aspect.—*Edinburgh Courant*, June, 1840.

MERCER'S HALL AND CHAPEL, CHEAPSIDE, 1321.

The above rude sketch is copied from Aggas's Plan of London, [about 1560.] It represents the Hall and Chapel of the Mercers. Weaver, thus describes the building:—"Before the hospital (of St. Thomas of Acon) towards the street, was a fayre and beautiful chappell arched over with stone, which stood before the great olde chappell (St. Thomas's church,) and over which was the Mercers' Hall, a most curious piece of work." It was erected by Sir John Allen, Mayor, and destroyed in the fire of London. The great conduit in Cheapside, which stood slantwise in the street, is seen immediately below it. Conduits for the conveyance of Thames water, were built (between 1471 and 1478) also at Dowgate, Leadenhall-street, Old Fish Street, Aldermanbury, Fleet Bridge, Cripplegate, near the extremity of Lamb's Conduit Street, Fleet-street, and Gracechurch-street. The author of the 'Burning of London,' p. 144, thus quaintly expresses himself.—"Methinks these several conduits of London, stood like so many little, but strong, forts, to confront and give check to that great enemy, Fire, if any occasion should be. There, methinks, the water was as it were, intrenched and ingarrisoned. The several pipes and vehicles of water, that were within those conduits, all of them charged with water, till by the turning of the cocks they were discharged again, were as so many soldiers within those forts, with their musquetry charge, ready to keep and defend those places."

In the time of James I., Mercers' chapel became a popular place of resort, from the attractive preaching of the learned Italian archbishop of Spalatro, who had become a convert to Protestantism, and who, in 1617, had for his auditors the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor, earl of Arundel and Pembroke, the Lords Zouch and Compton, and other noble and distinguished persons; and the chapel continued for many years afterwards, to be used for Italian sermons, which were preached to English merchants who had resided abroad, and who partly defrayed the expense of the establishment.

The present Mercer's Hall, in Cheapside, was built on the exact site of the above ancient structure. XIV - 17.

"SALLY IN OUR ALLEY."

The above pleasing, and truly English, ballad was written (*circa* 1729,) by the talented, but unfortunate Henry Carey, father of the once celebrated George Saville Carey. The error long prevailed that it was written on *Sally Salisbury*, a celebrated courtesan of the time, but which the author, in a volume of his poems, assures his readers that, as innocence and virtue had ever been the boundaries of his muse, so in this little poem, he had no other view than to set forth the beauty of a chaste and disinterested passion, even in the lowest class of human life, where simple love burns with more ardour than when clogged with combustibles of wealth and title. The occasion was this; a shoemaker's apprentice making holiday with his sweet-heart, treated her with a sight of Bedlam, the puppet-shows, the flying chairs,* and all the elegancies of Moorfields: from thence proceeding to the farthing pye-house,† he gave her a collation of buns, cheesecakes, gammon of bacon, stuffed beef, and bottled ale; through all which scenes the author dodged them: charmed with the simplicity of their courtship, he drew that little sketch of nature—"Sally in our Alley," but, being at that time young and obscure, he was very much ridiculed by his then acquaintance for the performance, which, nevertheless, made its way into the polite world, and amply recompensed him by the applause of Addison, who often expressed his high admiration of the production. To those of our readers who have had the delicious treat of hearing the manly notes of Incledon, while singing the above ballad, we need not dilate on the hearty applause and soul-stirring effect which his warbling always elicited. When are we again to hear a pure *English ballad*! Italian and German squalling have superseded the unsophisticated strains of peerless British song—native talent seems looked on with abhorrence. On the evening of the marriage of George the Third, the dancing at St. James's Palace commenced with "Good morrow to your nightcap!" and none but English singers and English musicians were engaged. But—no matter! Come what will, what may,

"The cat will mew, the dog will have his day."

EVENING.

When the evening skies are darkling,
When the evening-star is sparkling,
When the glowing sun is set,
And the dewy lawn is wet,
When the evening-breeze is blowing
Nature's spicy blossoms strowing,
Bearing sweets from ev'ry bow'r,
Then is Nature's sweetest hour!

When the peaceful woods are ringing,
Where the nightingale is singing,
When the weary cottars creep
Homeward to their welcome sheep,
When the troubles of the truest
Are forgot in dreamy rest,
Lost in slumber's blessed pow'r,
Then is Nature's sweetest hour! E. M.

* Now called "Ups and Downs."
† Most probably the one then in Marylebone Fields.

TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM.*

Among the great branches of science which the present generation has either seen to arise as of new creation, or to spring forward by a sudden and general impulse, into a fresh and more luxuriant state of development, there is none more eminently practical in its bearings and applications than that of Terrestrial Magnetism.

In this science, however, no single observer, whatever be his zeal and industry—no series of observations, however long continued and exact, made at a single place, can add much to our knowledge of the highly intricate laws and relations which prevail in it. For this purpose, the assemblage and comparison of observations, made in every region of the globe, and extending over long periods of time, are requisite. In order to master so large a subject, multitude must be brought to contend with mass, combination and concert to predominate over extent and diffusion, and systematic registry and reduction to fix and realize the fugitive phenomena of the passing moment, and place them before the eye of reason in that orderly and methodical arrangement which brings spontaneously into notice both their correspondencies and differences.

In the science, therefore, of terrestrial magnetism, we are yet busied in building and pulling down, casting and recasting our design, piecing together our scaffolding, and securing our foundations, for a far greater and more massive edifice than was at first contemplated. But already some portions have begun to assume a symmetry, and to convey to the experienced eye glimpses, if not of the plan and dimensions, at least of the general style and character of the future whole.

For the consummation of this great purpose, voyages and travels especially destined to this object need to be undertaken—particular districts traversed and retraversed—stations not only visited but resided in. In a word, the time is exactly arrived for a powerful and united effort on the part, not of individuals, but of nations, to place on record the actual state of those data, on a scale, and with an exactness worthy of the subject, and so to render the present epoch a secure point of departure for future ages. Such an effort is now in course of being made, and it will be our object, in the remainder of this article, to explain the immediate circumstances which have led to it—the nature, aim, and extent of the operations themselves—the leading part which our own country has taken in them—and the general views which ought to guide, and which we conceive to have guided its promoters in recommending and urging its adoption on their respective governments, as a matter of national concern.

The extension of the system of simultaneous observation, ever a favourite object of its original projector, Von Humboldt, was made by him, in April, 1836, the subject of a distinct appeal to the Royal Society, in his letter to his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex (then president of that venerable body.) In this letter he, amongst other things, urges the establishment of regular magnetic stations in the British possessions in Canada, Australia, the Cape, and between the tropics, not only for the observation of the momentary perturbations of the needle, but also for that of its periodic and secular movements.

This appeal did not fall on deaf ears. The subject was readily taken up by the Royal Society, and an application to government for a grant of money for the purchase of instruments, as readily listened to. The organization, however, of so wide a plan proved no light matter, and delays ensued. While thus in abeyance, a movement from another quarter gave a decisive turn to the whole, by striking at once an outline so full and sweeping as to meet all the exigencies of the case.

This outline is contained in a series of resolutions adopted by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at their meeting at Newcastle in 1838; and exhibiting, as these resolutions do, a clear view of the general nature and objects of the operations contemplated, and now in progress, we cannot do better than extract them from the most authentic reports of that meeting which have hitherto appeared.

"Resolved 1. That the British Association views with high interest the system of simultaneous magnetic observations which have been for some time carrying on in Germany and various parts of Europe, and the important results to which they have already led; and that they consider it highly desirable that similar series of observations regularly continued in correspondence with, and in extension of these, should be instituted in various parts of the British dominions.

"2. That this Association considers the following localities as particularly important:—Canada, Ceylon, St. Helena, Van Dieman's Land, and Mauritius, or the Cape of Good Hope; and that they are willing to supply instruments for their use.

"3. That in these series of observations, the three elements of horizontal direction, dip, and intensity, or their theoretical equivalents, be insisted on, as also their hourly changes, and on appointed days their momentary fluctuations.

"4. That the Association considers it highly important that the deficiency yet existing in our knowledge of terrestrial magnetism in the southern hemisphere should be supplied by observations of the magnetic direction and intensity, especially in the high southern latitudes between the meridians of New Holland and Cape Horn; and they desire strongly to recommend to Her Majesty's government the appointment of a naval expedition expressly directed to that object.

"5. That in the event of such expedition being undertaken, it would be desirable that the officers charged with its conduct should prosecute both branches of the observation alluded to in Resolution 3, so far as circumstances will permit.

"6. That it would be most desirable that the observations so performed, both at the fixed stations, and in the course of the expedition, should be communicated to Professor Lloyd.

"7. That Sir J. Herschel, Mr. Whewell, Mr. Peacock, and Professor Lloyd, be appointed a Committee to represent to government these recommendations.

"8. That the same gentlemen be empowered to act as a Committee, with power to add to their number,

* Condensed from the current number of the Quarterly Review, No. CXXXI., June, 1840.

for the purpose of drawing up plans of scientific co-operation, &c., relating to the subject, and reporting to the Association.

"9. That the sum of £400 be placed at the disposal of the above-named Committee, for the above-mentioned purposes."

In consequence of these resolutions, a memorial was addressed to government by the committee named in them, embodying the chief arguments for taking up the cause as a national concern, and specifying more particularly the objects proposed to be accomplished, and the means of accomplishing them.

The presentation of this memorial was backed, not only by the personal arguments and representations of its framers, but by similar, and even more urgent representations on the part of the president and council of the Royal Society, who, on this occasion, in a manner most honourable to themselves, and casting behind them every feeling but an earnest desire to render available to science, the ancient and established credit of their institution, threw themselves unreservedly, and with their whole weight, into the scale, with immediate and decisive effect. The strong interest taken in the cause by their president, the Marquis of Northampton, on all occasions a warm and zealous friend to science, contributed, without doubt, not a little to this result.

These objects, at once recognised by a British government, are taken up with a liberality which ensures success, if success be possible. In the present instance this has been eminently the case. Every point suggested in the above-cited resolutions has been ordered to be carried out into full execution, and every observation recommended, provided for in the most ample manner. Ships, buildings, instruments, and, what is of infinitely the most importance, officers and observers, selected with care, and imbued with the full spirit of their work, have been provided and appointed; while, so far from the general intention being thwarted by lukewarmness or negligence in the execution, every department of the public service concerned in it, or to which it became necessary to apply in the arrangement of details, responded with alacrity to the call.

Of the four observatories recommended, three, viz—those at St. Helena, the Cape of Good Hope, and in Canada, are placed under the direction of the Master General of the Ordnance, Sir H. Vivian, by whom the necessary orders for their equipment were issued, and every disposition made for their establishment on a footing of complete efficiency, with a promptness indicating no small interest in the success of the undertaking. At the same time, Lieuts. J. H. Lefroy, J. Eardley Wilmot, and C. J. Riddell, of the Royal Corps of Artillery, young officers, full of zeal and intelligence, were appointed as directors of those respective observations, and directed to communicate with Major Sabine, R. A., as their immediate military superior. To each observatory are attached three assistants, with a view to the continuance of the observations through the twenty-four hours. Shortly after their appointment, these officers proceeded to Dublin to receive the necessary instructions in the manipulation of the instruments, and practice of the new system of observation, from Professor Lloyd, who volunteered the performance of that highly important duty on this and on every subsequent occasion, sparing neither time nor pains in its performance.

The fourth observatory (at Van Dieman's Land) will be conducted by an officer (Lieut. T. H. Kay, R. N.), to be landed with a similar complement of assistants from one of the vessels destined for the antarctic voyage, which also carries out the observers and instruments for the St. Helena and Cape stations.

One immediate effect of this hearty adoption of the project by the British government, was, to call into action the no less hearty and effectual co-operation of the Honourable Court of Directors of the East India Company. That great and powerful body, on every occasion where scientific objects have come recommended to them from quarters which may be held a guarantee for their importance and utility, have shown themselves liberal, even to profusion, in their support—and, in this instance, when applied to by the Royal Society to that effect, not a moment was lost by them in complying with the wish expressed by that learned body, for the establishment of three, (afterwards increased to four) magnetic observatories in their dominions and dependencies, similar and similarly equipped in every respect to those established by government, and destined to a strictly simultaneous and corresponding course of observations. The stations thus ultimately fixed on are, Madras—Semla, at an elevation of nearly 8,000 feet in the Himalayas—Singapore, as the farthest attainable eastern point—and Aden on the Red Sea, as a point highly important in itself from its position with respect to the magnetic equator, which passes nearly through it, as well as from its constituting a link in a chain of stations of high interest, extending in longitude from St. Helena to Singapore.

A basis so extensive, thus afforded for a great combined system of corresponding observation, by which the magnetic state of the whole globe at the present epoch should be, as it were, struck off at a blow, and placed on record for ever, not only justified, but demanded that every exertion should be made to procure the co-operation of foreign countries on a regular and concerted plan. In performance of this duty, the Royal Society again bestirred itself by circulars addressed to the various scientific bodies and individuals in its correspondence, by representations to official authorities abroad, and where it could be done without a breach of etiquette, to personages in the highest station: and in order that the plan of operations should be so arranged, as to consult, as far as possible, the convenience of Russian and German observers, Professor Lloyd, accompanied by Major Sabine, at the request

of the society, visited Göttingen and Berlin, where, being met by M. Kupffer, the director of the Russian magnetic observatories (who for that purpose had undertaken a journey from Petersburgh) in personal conference with that eminent and zealous observer, and with Messrs. Von Humboldt, Erman, and Gauss, they were enabled to agree on a scheme of co-operation, which, being subsequently matured by communication with other of the chief European observers, has ultimately been adopted by general consent.

The success of these measures to secure an extensive co-operation may be collected from the following summary of stations, at which it is now certain that magnetic observatories co-operating for the most part to the full extent, but at all events so far as the *personnel* of the establishment will allow, in the proposed plan, and furnished with instruments identical with, or equivalent to, those supplied to the British observatories, are either already established, or in immediate course of being so, the instruments being ordered, and the observers appointed.

British Stations.—1. Dublin, (Prof. Lloyd;) 2. Toronto,* (Lieut. Riddell, R. A.;) 3. St. Helena,† (Lieut. Lefroy, R.A.;) 4. Cape of Good Hope, (Lieut. J. Eardley Wilmot, R. A.;) 5. Van Diemen's Land, (Lieut. J. H. Kay, R.N.;) 6. Madras,‡ (Lieut. Ludlow;) 7. Semla, (Capt. Bollean;) 8. Singapore,‖ (Lieut. Elliot;) 9. Aden, (Lieut. Yule.) In addition to which, each ship of the naval expedition, under the command of Capt. Ross, is provided with a corresponding set of apparatus, to be erected and used in concert, wherever opportunity may offer. (10, 11.)

Russian.—12. Boulowa; 13. Helsingfors, (M. Nervander;) 14. Petersburg, (M. Kupffer, General Superintendent;) 15. Sitka; 16. Catherinenburg; 17. Kasan; 18. Barnaoul; 19. Nertschinsk; 20. Nicolajeff, (M. Knorre;) 21. Tiflis; 22. Pekin.¶

Austrian.—23. Prague, (M. Kreil;) 24. Milan, (Sig. Della Vedova?).

United States.—25. Philadelphia, (Professor Bache;) 26. Cambridge, (Professors Lovering and Bond.)

French.—27. Algiers, (M. Aimé.)

Prussian.—28. Breslau,¶ (M. Boguslawski.)

Bavarian.—29. Munich, (M. Lamont, Director of the R. Observatory.)

Belgian.—30. Brussels, (M. Quetelet, Director of the R. Observatory.)

Egyptian.—31. Cairo (M. Lambert.)

Hindoo.—32. Travandrum, (Mr. Caldecott, Astronomer to the Rajah of Travancore.)

There is every reason to expect that this list will be largely increased within the present year. Indeed, six or seven more stations might already be inserted from our knowledge of communications in progress.

The great development of the Russian system is partly owing to the continuance in activity of the observatories established at the instance of Baron Von Humboldt: partly to the indefatigable zeal and activity of M. Kupffer, on whom their general direction devolves—seconded by representations from England. The occurrence of an Egyptian observatory, established by the extraordinary man who now rules the destinies of that country—and of a Hindoo one, maintained by the liberality of a native prince, and placed under the direction of an English observer, who has already rendered excellent service to magnetic science—are scientific novelties, which will be viewed with interest, as we believe them to be the first instances of potentates, whom European pride regards as semi-barbarous, placing themselves so far within the pale of civilization, as to co-operate in any scientific proposition.

In casting our eyes over this list, we perceive the whole continent of South America unrepresented, though abounding in stations of great interest. We could have wished also to see Otaheite included in the list of primary stations; for, though aware that measures have been taken to secure *some* observations there, yet its importance well merits for it, this distinction. May we not hope that the omission will (before it is too late) be supplied by the missionaries, in whose hands the entire direction of the government and the resources of that island may be considered as placed. We know not a point on the surface of the globe, so interestingly situated for a physical observatory, or at which, independent of its magnetic interest, the tides, the winds, the barometric oscillations, the habitudes of earth, air, and ocean, all present themselves under aspects so peculiar and so highly deserving, to be diligently noted and recorded.

Regarded as a branch of that great assemblage of facts and theories which relate to the physical constitution of this our planet—the forces which bind together its mass, and animate it with activity—the structure of its service—its adaptation for life, and the history of its past changes—the nature, movements, and infinitely varied affections of the air and ocean, and all which our continental neighbours understand by their term, *physique du globe*—(a phrase, of which our "terrestrial physics" is rather a faint and inexpressive reflection)—the science of terrestrial magnetism occupies a large and highly interesting place. Its relations lie among those mysterious powers which seem to constitute the chief arcana of inanimate nature, and wondrous truths, from the configuration of our globe—the distribution of temperature in its interior—the tides and currents of the ocean—the general course of winds and the affections of climate—the different direction and intensity of the magnetic forces, and a thousand other circumstances are now to be derived, sorted, and systematized, to give to science a prouder position, and confer, on mankind, at large, inestimable benefits.

The time is now, therefore, fairly arrived,

* Substituted for Montreal, originally proposed. This observatory is already in activity, and observations have been received from it.

† Already in activity.

‡ Substituted for Ceylon, originally proposed.

‖ Substituted for Bombay, originally proposed.

¶ From Pekin a complete series cannot be expected; but, so far as practicable, the observatory there (already in activity,) will co-operate.

¶ This observatory is supplied with British instruments.

when other great branches may be considered as entitled to share in the public support and encouragement which has hitherto fallen to the lot of, perhaps, astronomy alone, and will surely be granted by all who duly consider the parent state and prospects of science. The great problems which offer themselves on all hands for solution—problems which the wants of the age force upon us as practically interesting, and with which its intellect feels itself competent to deal, are infinitely far more complex, and depend on data which, to be of use must be accumulated in vast masses, over a wide field, and worked upon with a great and systematized power. The collecting, arranging, and duly combining these data are operations which, to be carried out to the extent of the requirements of modern science, lie utterly beyond the reach of all private industry, means, or power. Our demands are not merely for a slight and casual sprinkling to refresh and invigorate an ornamental or luxurious product, but for a copious, steady, and well-directed stream, to call forth from a soil ready to yield it an ample, healthful, and remunerating harvest.

BURNS, AND HIS FELLOW PLOUGHMEN.

If without presumption we may speak of the difference between the ploughman upon whom the world has bestowed no more praise than he deserved, and his fellows, we would say that it consisted, not in his being a much wiser man than they—for Heaven can testify that he knew as little as the dullest of them about the laws of mechanics, and what was the construction of the plough with which he turned up the sods, or how these sods were classified in the cabinets of the geologists;—but if he in any degree was other than they, it was on this account, that while they merely drove an instrument, which they called a plough, and turned up from the ground what they named sods, and measured their course by the aspect of the heavens, and the habitual instinct which taught them to fly from the rain, or profit by the sunshine—to *him* that plough, and those sods, and that sky, and the rain, and the sunshine, were all living things, which he knew, felt, and believed in; they were all instinct, all real; they became, though we know not how, parts of himself, and then he became and knew himself to be a man. And every hour something new seemed added, not so much to what he saw, as to what he was. But this is the perilous point for man—a feeling so strong comes, in many cases, eventually to overpower him, so that his own powers take possession of him, till that which had been life and consciousness becomes pride, and in the mad desire to make higher proof of his strength by defying the conscience which restrains it—he oftentimes throws away in the arms of some vain Delilah, that moral dignity in which, as in the locks of Sampson, lies the secret of his might; and thereupon will that man's perceptions wax dimmer, and his belief become less strong, and the clods become to him clods of the valley merely, and the flowers will lose their brilliancy, and the earth its greenness; and though in that man's verse Nature may still look fresh (for that she may have consecrated to herself) yet in his heart will she be dead and cold. And because of pride and arrogance will the last state of that man be grievously bad, owing to the high glory of his first.

SHIPS EMBEDDED IN THE EARTH.

The number of great vessels which have at different periods been swept into destruction by the winds and waters, is not to be computed. Suddenly surprised by tornados, maelstroms, gulph-streams or other tremendous powers, hundreds of ships are on record, that, hurried from their moorings, have been driven inland, and swallowed up by the earthquakes that followed the inundations of the sea. Of many that have been thus suddenly imbedded in the earth, the following, if a short, is a fearful list.

In 1462, it is recorded by Fulgosus, as some men were working a mine near Berne in Switzerland, they found a ship 100 fathoms deep in the earth, with anchors of iron, and sails of linen, with the remains of forty men.

Pairre Naxis relates a like history of another such ship having been found under a very high mountain.

Eusebius Newcombergus the Jesuit, in his 5th book of Natural History, says, that near the port of Lima, in Peru, as the people were working a gold mine, they found a ship, on which were many characters very different from ours. Strabo also relates, in his first book, that the wrecks of ships have been found 375 miles from the sea.

Dr. Plott, in his Natural History of Staffordshire, relates a story, that the mast of a ship, with a pulley hanging to it, was found in one of the Greenland mountains. Is it to be supposed that these ships, which have been found beneath the surface of the earth, were antediluvian ships? If they were, (and mankind knew the use of ships before the flood,) it is not probable that all mankind except Noah and his family, would have been drowned by a deluge of waters.

Is it not more probable, that violent earthquakes since the deluge have been the means of swallowing up these ships? but the sea must, at that time, have covered that part of the land where they have been found.

In 1692, on the 7th of June, the town of Port Royal, in Jamaica, was in two minutes totally destroyed by an earthquake; many ships were also swallowed up.

In 1746, Callao, a sea-port town in Peru, was violently shaken by an earthquake, and of 5,000 inhabitants, only 200 were saved. The sea rolled in upon the town in mountainous waves; ships of burden were conveyed

over the garrison walls: and one ship, which arrived from Chile the preceding day, was conveyed to the foot of the mountains, and left on dry ground.

In 1755, on the 1st of November, Lisbon, in Portugal, was also destroyed by an earthquake: many ships in the harbour were also swallowed up, only their masts appearing above water: the sea suddenly rolled in like a mountain, ships were driven from their moorings, and tossed about with great violence.

Cadiz, on the same day that Lisbon was destroyed, was violently shaken by an earthquake, and the inhabitants were yet more alarmed at the appearance of a wave coming towards the town at least sixty feet higher than common: it beat in the breast-work of the walls, and carried pieces of eight or ten tons weight forty or fifty yards from the wall, and passed over a parapet sixty feet above the ordinary level of the water.

In 1818, an account was received at the Admiralty of a discovery made in the south of Africa, about 20 miles north of Cape Town. Some persons, in digging, happened to strike upon what appeared a beam of timber: but tracing it, they found a ship deeply imbedded in the soil. A plank of it accompanied the account of the discovery to the Admiralty.

ON THE ANTIQUITY OF TREES;

OR, LES ARBRES SECULAIRES.

The longevity of trees is a subject of interest, to the knowledge of which a value must be justly attached, when it is known that some trees were contemporary with the *oldest generations of mankind*. They have, in certain cases, thrown light on the history of monuments; as the monuments in return have reflected the same light of knowledge on those ancient trees that grew near them. The specimens of these patriarchs of the vegetable world are numerous, and if their immense age be only ascertained with precision, there will even be found in these facts some means of fixing an approximative date to the last revolutions of the globe.

Old books abound in mention of these ancients of creation. The oaks in the Hercynian forest are mentioned* as—"vastitas sylvæ, intacta sevis et *congenita mundo*." Josephus ranks the great turpentine tree at Idumea with the *Creation*. Adanson found a baobab, which, by ingenious and plausible calculations, he proved to be 5150 years old; and the taxodium (*cupressus disticha*) which, by similar reasonings, may be much older. There was a cypress in Persia, in girth as much as five men could span, believed to be 2500 years old. Scaliger reports of an enormous tree growing in Troglodytic India: there was the Delian palm coevous with Apollo, and the platanus by which Socrates used to swear.

* Pliny. lib. xvi., c. 2.

The Cedars.—Those on Lebanon, measured in 1660 by Maundrel and Pocock, were supposed to be then about 609 years old, and about 600 years old in 1787, when again seen by M. Labellordière.

The Oaks are among the patriarchs of Europe; but the study of them has been attended with doubt; partly because this tree is one of those which, the woodmen confess, is the most affected by soil; partly because persons have confounded the wood of the *Quercus pedunculata*, which grows quickly and spires up in height, whereas the Quercus Sessiliflora is of slow growth, and becomes harder and more tortuous; from this confusion there exists an impossibility of comparing documents on the subject. Among the oldest and bulkiest of this tribe may be mentioned, that called Damory's in Dorsetshire, the Boddington oak, and the Norbury oak of Dr. Platt.

The Elm obtains a very large size and a very rapid growth; one possessed by M. de Candolle appeared to be about 335 years old; it grew near the town of Morges, in a light wet soil; it fell during a calm season, probably through the soil being undermined by the waters of Leman Lake. Those planted by order of Sully before the Chambers in France are good specimens. It is necessary to distinguish between the broad and narrow-leaved elms, as the latter live longer and are of slower growth.

The Ivies are sometimes astonishing for their girth. In 1804, one at Gigean, near Montpelier was six feet round at the base, which, taken as a general type, would, if still in existence, be four centuries and a half old.

Larches.—One measured by M. Candolle was 255 years old; from which it may be presumed that there exist some of an age of between five and six centuries.

The Lime is an European tree which, in a given time, appears able to acquire the largest diameter. That of the Chateau of Chaillé near Melles, in the department of the Deux-Sévres, was in 1804 about 538 years old; that of Trons in the Grisons in 1798 must have been about 583 years old; that of Depeham, near Norwich, and of Henstadt in Wurtemburg were also very aged, the last needing props. The large and small-leaved limes must be distinguished between, as the former grow faster than the latter.

The Cypresses, among the trees in the south of Europe, live to the most advanced age. Hunter says that, in 1776, there existed in the garden of the Palace of Grenada, cypresses that were celebrated even in the time of the Moorish Kings, and which were named Cupressos de la Regna Sultana—from a Sultaness who was seen under it with the Abencerrages. The largest now known is near the Lago Maggiore. The immense cypress of Chapultepec, which, it is said, has attained 117 feet 10 inches round, is *probably the most ancient vegetable production of the globe.*

The Sweet Chesnuts appear to grow to a great age. Pæderte says, he saw one in the

county of Gloucester, which was supposed to be near 900 years old. (This is the Totworth Chesnut at Lord Ducies'.) Bose mentions one near Lanoerro, 30 feet round, and which has, for 600 years, borne the title of the "Great Chesnut."

The Orange and Lemon are among the European trees of the slowest growth and the greatest age. It is stated that the orange tree in the Convent of Santa Sabina at Rome, was planted by St. Domenico in 1200, and that of Fondi by St. Thomas d'Aquinas, in 1278.

The Olive is a tree that can live to an astonishing age, in any country, where it is not liable to be pruned. M. de Chateaubriand says, in his Itinerary, that the eight olive trees in the garden of that name in Jerusalem, only pay each a *medin* to the grand seignior, which proves that they existed at the period of the invasion of the Turks; for those planted since that time pay a tax of half their produce. The largest olive tree mentioned in Italy by Peccoui, is at Pescio; this tree, according to Moschettini must be 700 years old.

The Yew appears, of all European trees, to attain the greatest age. Of these venerable trees there are several in England, whose ages have been ascertained:—

Those of the ancient Abbey of Fountains, near Ripon, in Yorkshire, were, in 1770, more than twelve centuries old.

Those of the churchyard of Crowhurst in Surrey, if they still exist, must be fourteen centuries and a half old.

Those of Fotheringay, in Scotland, must be reckoned at from twenty-five to twenty-six centuries. [Fortingale.]

Those of Brabourne churchyard, in Kent, if still living, must, according to their measurements, have attained a period of 3,000 years.

It is possible that these are the *oldest specimens of European vegetation*. Century after century they have continued to draw up from the earth their mighty nourishment; on their green umbrageous heads the rains and dews of thousand years have fallen, and they now stand, at the present day, as monuments of wonder to the generations of men.

SORCERISM OF NEW-ENGLAND IN 1660.

"It is to be confessed and bewailed," says an old author of this period, "that many inhabitants of New-England, and young people especially, had been led away with little sorceries, wherein they did secretly those things, that were not right, against the Lord their God; they would often cure hurts with spells, and practise detestable conjurations with sieves, and keys, and peas, and nails, and horse-shoes, and other implements, to learn the things for which they had a forbidden and impious curiosity. Wretched books had stolen into the land, wherein fools had been instructed to become able fortune-tellers, and by these books, the minds of many had been so poisoned, that they studied this finer witchcraft, etc.

"Scores of people," continues our ancient author, "were arrested with many preternatural vexations upon their bodies, and a variety of cruel torments, which were evidently inflicted from the demons of the invisible world. The people that were infected and infested, in a few days' time arrived unto such a refining alteration upon their eyes, that they could *see* their tormentors; they saw a devil, of a little stature, and of a tawney colour, attended still with spectres, that appeared in more human circumstances. These tormentors tendered unto the afflicted a book, requiring them to sign it, or touch it, at least, in token of their consent to be listed in the service of the devil; which they refusing to do, the spectres, under command of that *black-man*, as they called him, would apply themselves to torture them with prodigious molestations. The afflicted wretches were horribly distorted: they were pinched black and blew: pins would be run everywhere in their flesh: they would be scalded until they had blisters raised on them, and a thousand other things, before a thousand witnesses. Their hands would be tied together with a rope, *plainly to be seen*, and then, by unseen hands, presently pulled up a great way from the earth, before a crowd of people. One person was cruelly assaulted by a spectre, that, she said, ran at her with a spindle, though no one else in the room could see either the spectre or the spindle; at last, in her agonies, giving a snatch at the spindle, she pulled it away, and it was no sooner got into her hand, but the other folks then present beheld that it was indeed a real, proper iron spindle, which they locked up very safe, yet it was nevertheless taken away by the demons, to do farther mischief."

QUIDDITIES OF ARCHITECTS.

Architects appear to me to be a very peculiar class of men, though why they should be so is as odd to me as it is to any body else.

They are eternally talking about their styles and studies, one prefers Grecian, another Roman, a third Gothic, and, may be, a fourth neither; they tell students, by means of expensive books, illustrated with examples, how they ought to proceed to design and build a perfect specimen of their favourite style—well, but no sooner does our student commence building, than he finds, or, perhaps, others find for him, that he has committed a most unclassical blunder, such as stretching a dome over a Grecian pediment, or something worse; he is then assailed by hosts of architects and critics, who point out his errors, and tell him how they have been committed, and how they may be avoided; he promises amendment for the future, and builds again, perhaps committing worse blunders than ever, and so continues till "the crack of doom." D. L.

The Gatherer.

Boabdil's Flight and Surrender. — On reaching a hill above Granada (which has since been called by the Spaniards *El Ultimo Suspiro del Moro*, "the last sigh of the Moor,") Boabdil turned, and, casting a last look back on the beautiful Vega, and the glorious city of his forefathers, he burst into tears. "You do well," said his high-spirited mother, Ayxa, "to weep like a woman for what you know not how to defend like a man!"

Shetland: its 'Corduroy Roads.'—Walking is, of course, a most necessary accomplishment in this country, where the shoes are made of materials so very substantial, that an old gentleman used to say, he wore in the morning three rows of nails on the sole, but for full dress only two rows."—*Miss Sinclair.*

The total amount of rain which has fallen between the 2d and 16th of June, 1840, has been 0.29 inch.

The vacant ground in front of the National Gallery is now about to be laid out. On account of the extensive levellings in its front, the whole of that building will stand on a terrace of from eight to ten feet high. The soil removed is to be applied in levelling and improving the Green Park.

Horticultural Society.—The total number of visitors to the garden on the 13th ult., was 11,711, nearly 3,000 more than ever before attended at one exhibition; 18 gold and 63 silver medals, amounting together in value to 260*l.* 15*s.*, were awarded on that occasion.

M. Redouté, the celebrated flower-painter, and professor of drawing at the Garden of Plants, died last June in Paris, in his eighty-first year.

In some parts of Scotland, the charters of estates were anciently carved in Gaelic on the rocks. A person ignorant of the law once mentioned, that a gentleman had proved his claim to an estate, and on being asked in what way, confidently replied, "he has carved it on stone!"

The Man of Benevolence.—His presence, gentle and quiet though he was, made a jubilee wherever he remained: his charity might be termed universal: he was welcomed by smiles, and departed amid tears.

Primitive Method of Sowing.—Sacavi is an Armenian village, situated on a conical hill on the banks of the Murad Su, or Euphrates. On the road a party of peasants were passed, sowing wheat, which they did in a very primitive manner: the sower walking before the plough, cast the grain upon the ground among the high grass and weeds, and then over all came the plough, which was drawn by eight oxen: the grain was small, but very white.—*Notes of a Journey from Erzroom to Aleppo.*

The Pianoforte.—This instrument was invented in London, in 1766, by Zumpi, a German.

Productiveness of the Ascaris lumbricoides.—The entire number of ova, and therefore the number of young, capable of being produced at a single birth from the same parent, frequently amounts to the astonishing number of 64,000,000.—*Lancet*, Vol. 11, No. 9, p. 304.

Proper Succession of Crops.—Any given crop influences a succeeding one; not merely by the quantity of vegetable and azotic matter left behind it by in the soil, but also by the circumstance whether the plant forming the crop has penetrated deep into, and has exhausted, the soil or not. Thus wheat is found to grow much better after potatoes, than after beet-root; and far better after clover, than after either of the other two crops.

"*All that's bright must fade!*"—That once fascinating scene of mirth and fashion, Vauxhall Gardens, is doomed very shortly to fall beneath the hand of the auctioneer. The shades of Beard, Incledon, Dignum, Bland, with other choice spirits, surely will again revisit this favoured spot, and sing a requiem over the ruins of the once fairy scene of all their early fame and glory!

Honneur au Journal Monstre! — The "Courier de l'Europe" has computed, that in the "Times" of the 24th June, there were in that paper and its supplement, 1,370 advertisements, occupying 45 columns and a half: the produce of which would be 700*l.* The two sheets contained 27,000 lines, and 1,250,000 letters, which, if extended in a straight line, would reach half-a-mile!

Cruelty of the Russian Slave-masters.—A very intelligent traveller, M. Ermann, mentions a cruel practice of the Kirghis, which is of a very singular nature. He says, that they have the art of reducing their Russian prisoners, by a dexterous blow on the head, at once to a state of idiotcy, so that, though useful as slaves, they never think of making their escape. They are also in the habit of making a deep incision in the soles of their captives' feet, in which they insert a bunch of horse-hair. The wound then closes, but leaves a soreness, which effectually precludes any attempt at running away.

It is allowed on all hands, that the agriculture of Hindoostan is rude; a Hindoo field, in the highest state of cultivation, is only so far changed by the plough as to afford a scanty supply of mould for covering the seed, while the useless and hurtful vegetation is so far from being eradicated, that (where burning does not precede) it covers a large surface of the earth.—*Mills' British India*, vol. i. p. 346.

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